

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
FREE DRUGS FOR HIV AIDS PATIENTS
Sai Shri Nand Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the country do not have access to life saving medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is still a huge mismatch between the demand and supply of such drugs in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide free drugs to the HIV/AIDS patients in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons likely to be benefitted as a result thereof;
- (f) whether some private companies have also come forward to provide cheap drugs to HIV/AIDS patients in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 54 FOR 18TH FEBRUARY, 2009

Under the National AIDS Control Programme Phase-III, the life saving medicines to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) are provided through Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) centers that have been set up in selected medical colleges and district hospitals. The first Eight ART centers were established in April 2004 and presently 197 ART Centres are providing free life saving anti-retroviral drugs (ARV) to eligible HIV/AIDS patients.

Since, 2003, nearly 12 lakh persons have been diagnosed with HIV infection, of whom 6,11,754 patients have so far been registered at ART centres as on 31.12.2008. All these patients undergo a detailed clinical evaluation and investigations including CD4 count. Those patients who have WHO clinical stage IV disease or have a CD4 count less than 250 cells/cmm, are technically eligible to receive ART. Presently all technically eligible (1,99,237) patients are receiving free treatment from these centres. State-wise number of persons registered in HIV care and patients who are currently on ART are annexed. The target is to provide treatment to 3,00,000 adults and 40,000 children by 2012.

ART Centres are established depending on the prevalence of HIV and number of patients detected HIV positive in a district. The ARV drugs are procured through international Competitive Bidding that has enabled us to get them at nearly half the prevailing market prices.